

# ***The National Weather Service Forecast Offices***

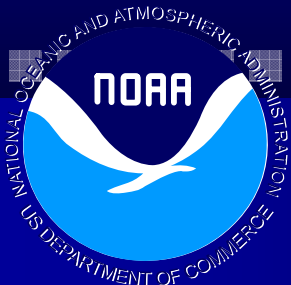
***When a hurricane begins to affect land...your Local NWS Forecast Office takes the handoff from the NWS NHC and provides its local WFO expertise to mesoscale warnings, impacts and products for their county warning areas.***

**60<sup>th</sup> Interdepartmental Hurricane Conference  
Mobile, AL – March 21, 2006**

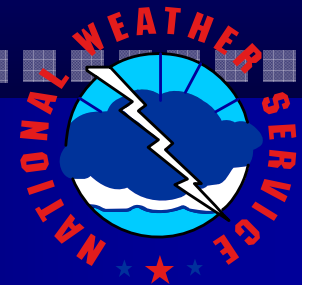
**Bill Proenza  
Regional Director  
National Weather Service  
Southern Region**

# The National Weather Service

- **With the “Local” Weather Forecast Offices** – most successfully provided mesoscale expertise with warnings and forecast products time and time again when the 2004-2005 Hurricanes repeatedly targeted our Southern States.
- **Your Source for our WFO Coastal “88D” Radar Network** – In addition, this past season, the Southern Regional Headquarters developed and implemented a greatly expanded internet radar depiction and data using GIS, velocity data and many more vital features.
- **Your Preparedness and Information Partner** for Emergency Management, state and local government and you, our Interdepartmental partners.



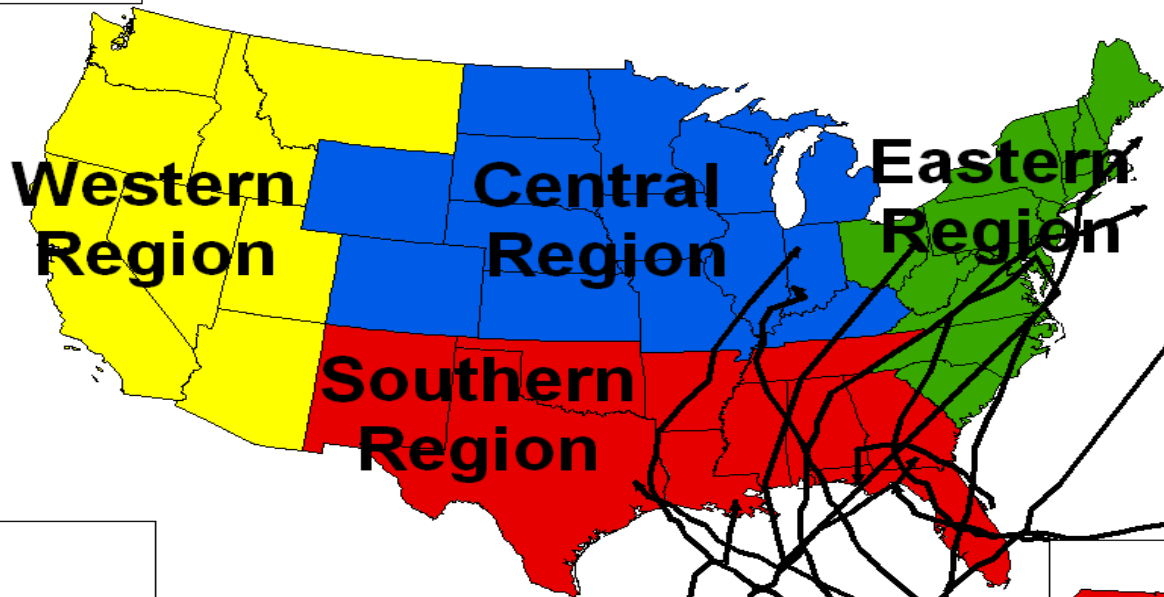
NWS SOUTHERN REGION  
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**Alaska  
Region**

## National Weather Service Regions



*Hawaii and Guam*

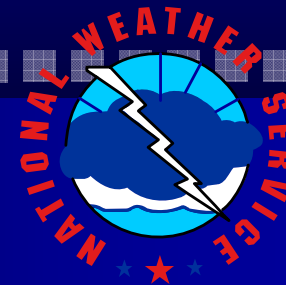
**Pacific  
Region**



*Puerto Rico and  
Virgin Islands*

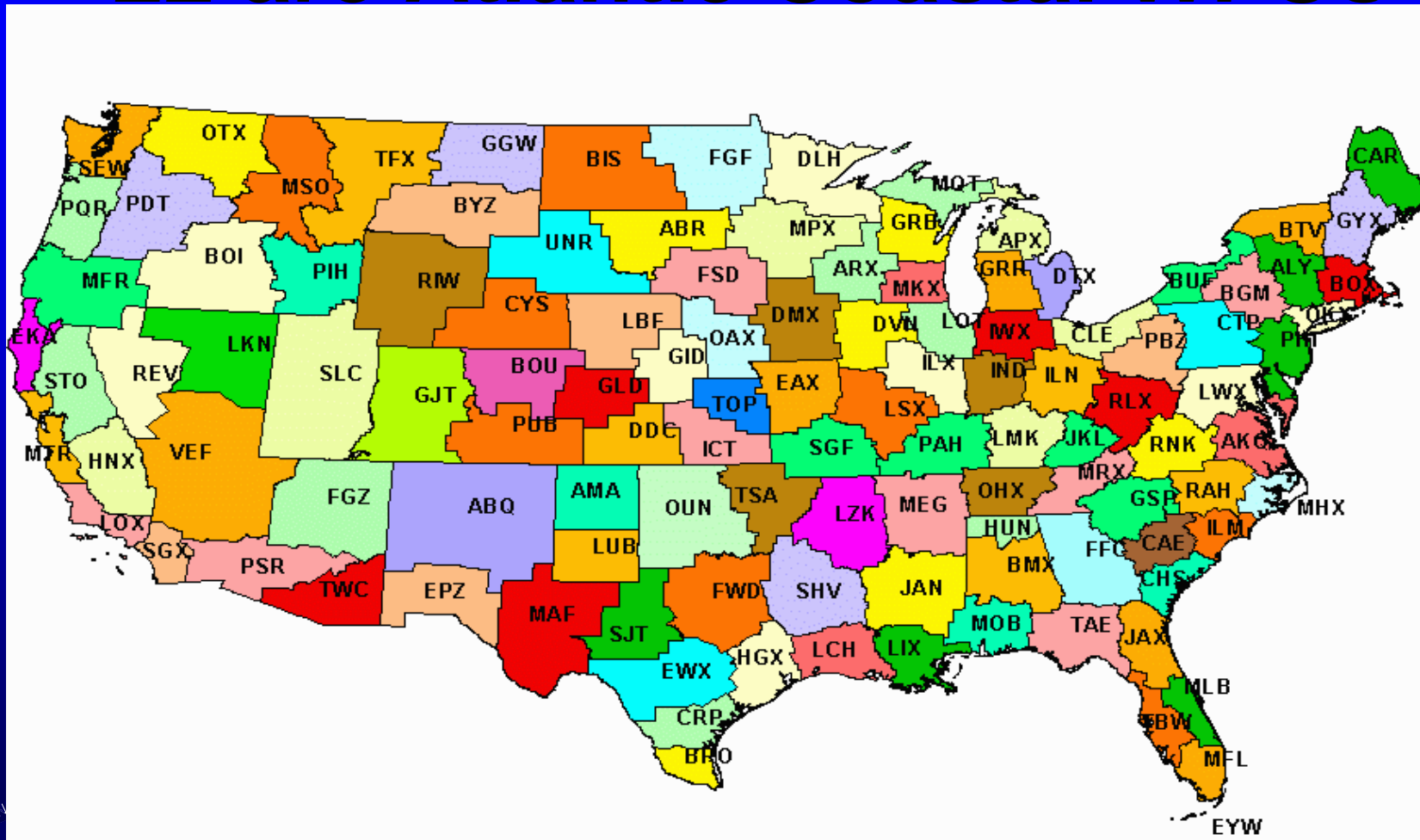


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# 122 NWS Warning Forecast Offices

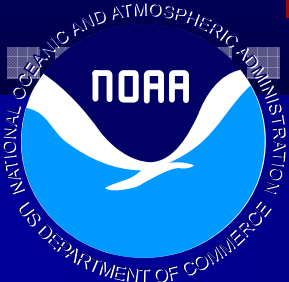
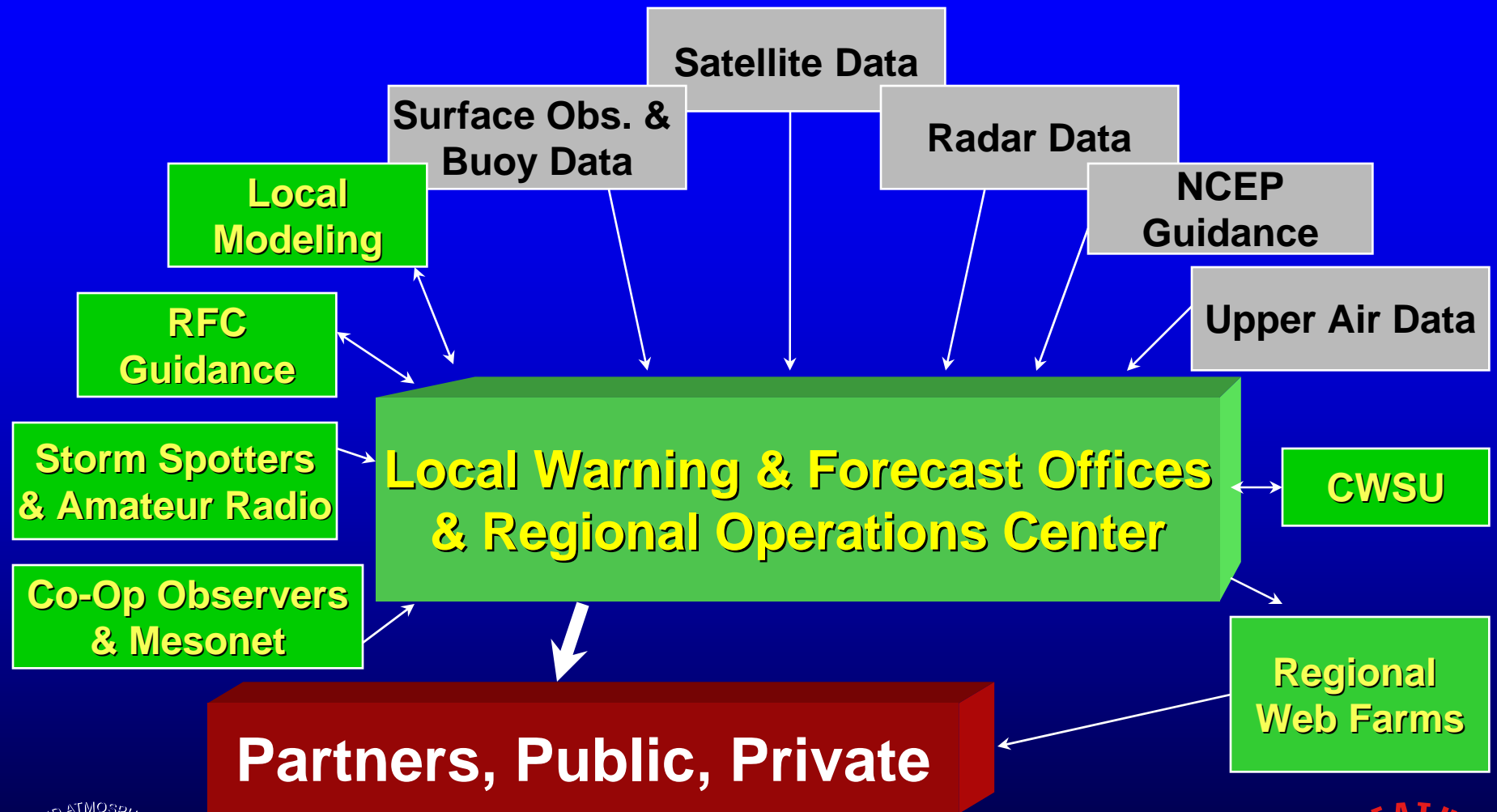
## 22 are Atlantic Coastal WFOs



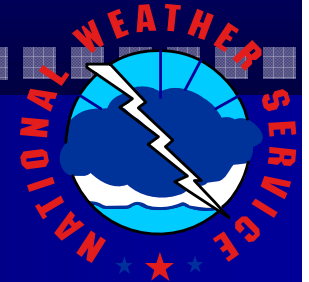
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# The WFO's Information Flow

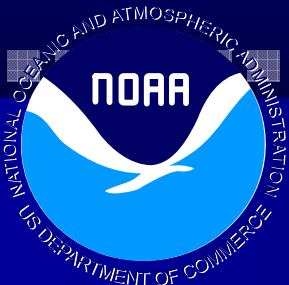


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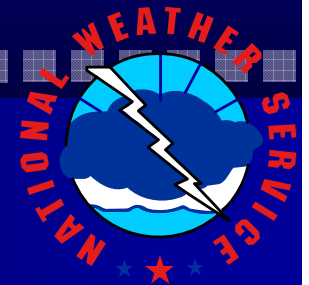


# Your RO and Local WFO is Vital

- The 24x7 source for mesoscale warnings (Hurricane Local Statements, surge, wind, flood, tornado etc.) and forecast services (e.g. hazardous weather outlooks, statements etc.)
- Your active Partner in Community Preparedness and with all weather information.
- And, for those interdepartmental partners with the mission need, we'll provide 24x7 weather support for natural and man made (*accidental or intentional*) events. And as we also did for each Governor's office we'll provide your command center a "tactical met".

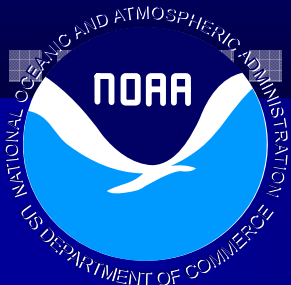


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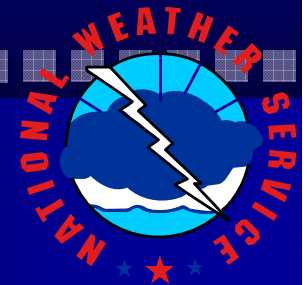


# Regional Operations Center “ROC” at Southern Region Hqs. provides:

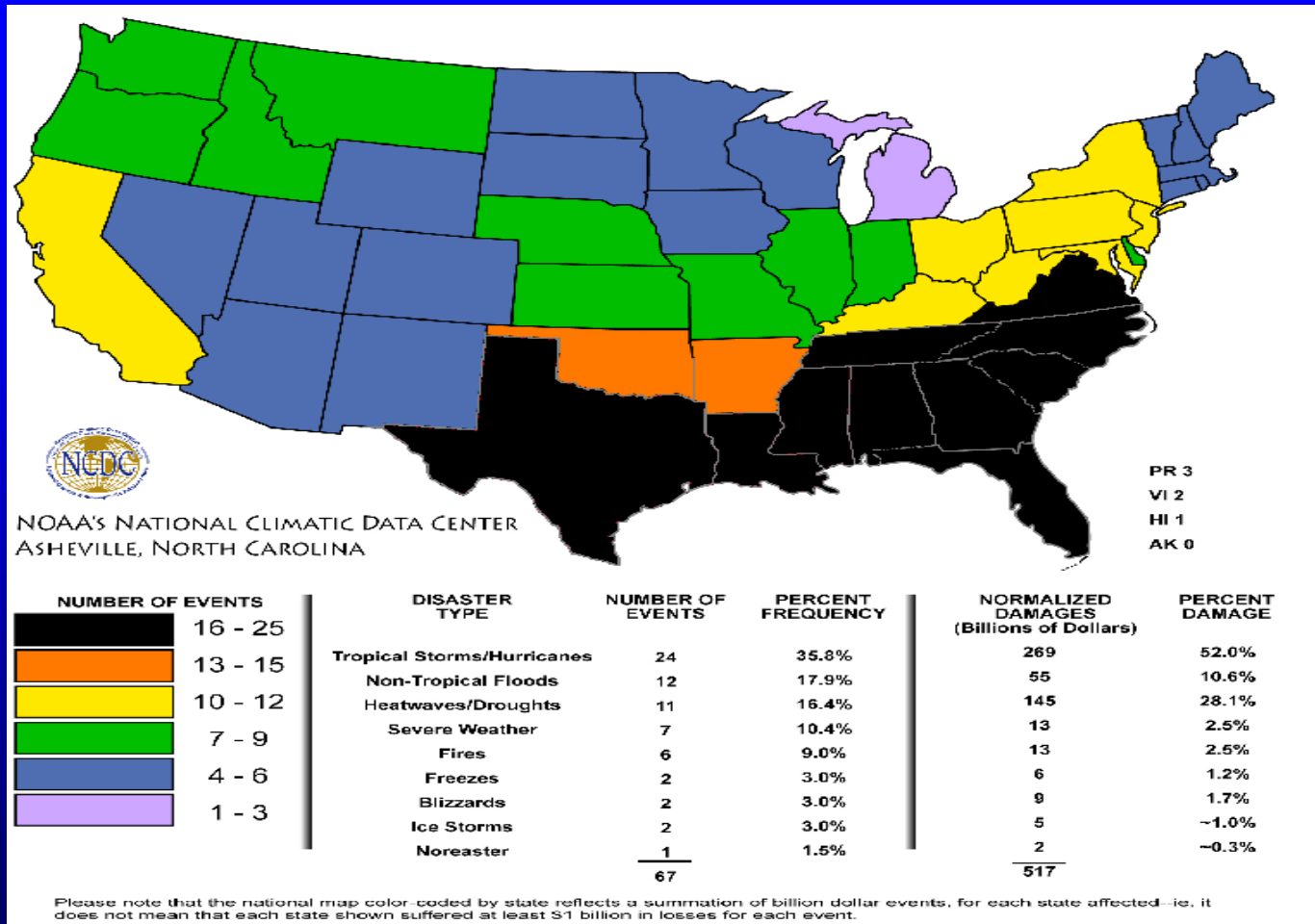
- Federal/State/Local EM and Media briefings
- Multi-NWS office contingency preparation for all hurricane landfalls
- Deploys staff to WFOs and/or “tactical mets” to your field command centers.
- handles post event recovery for WFO’s
- **817-978-1100 x147**



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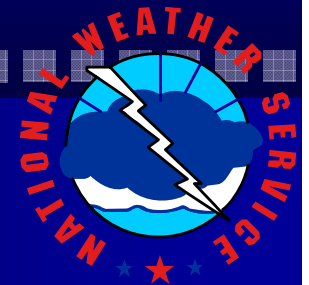
# World's Most Active Weather!



## Billion Dollar Weather Events, 1980-2005



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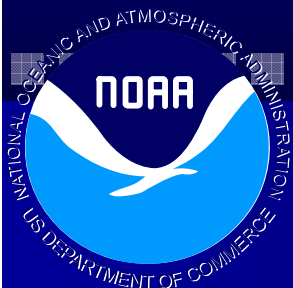
# Your WFOs are Saving Lives !

## April '74 “Palm Sunday” Tornado Outbreak

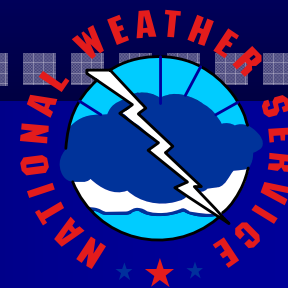
- Single largest 24 hour tornado outbreak
- 148 Tornadoes
- 330 Fatalities
- Up to 5 Minute Warning Lead Time

## May 2003 Tornado Outbreak

- Unprecedented in size & time (9 days)
- 393 Tornadoes
- 39 Fatalities
- Averaged over 16 Minutes Warning Lead Time

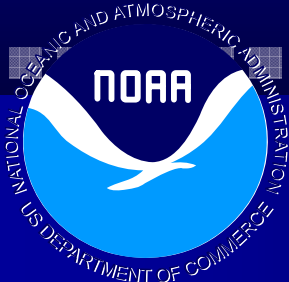
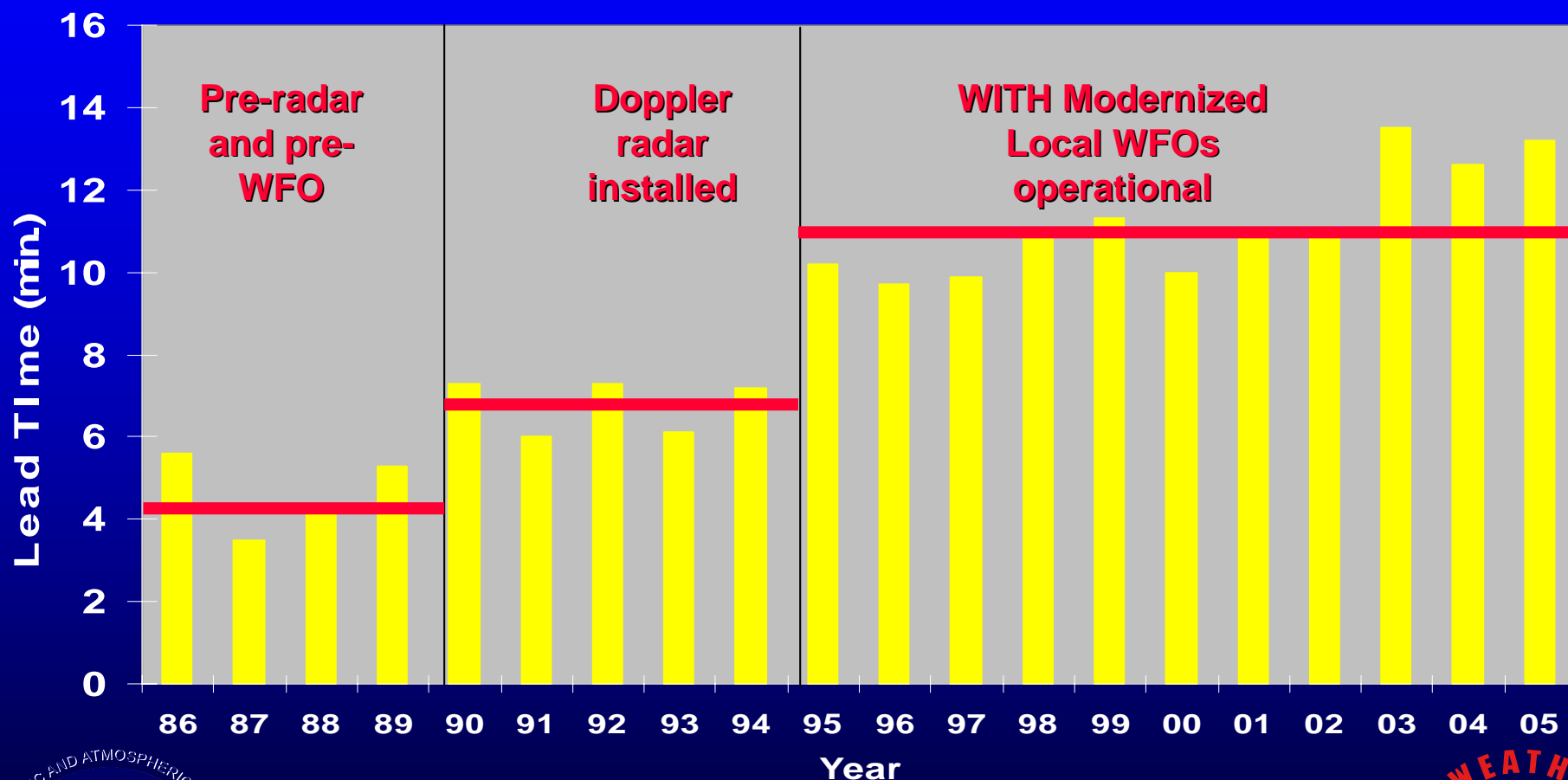


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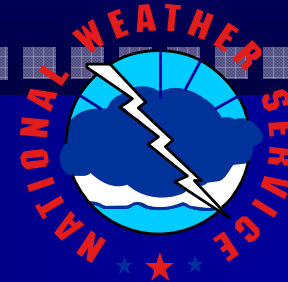


# Local WFOs Save Lives

By increasing Tornado Warning Lead Time

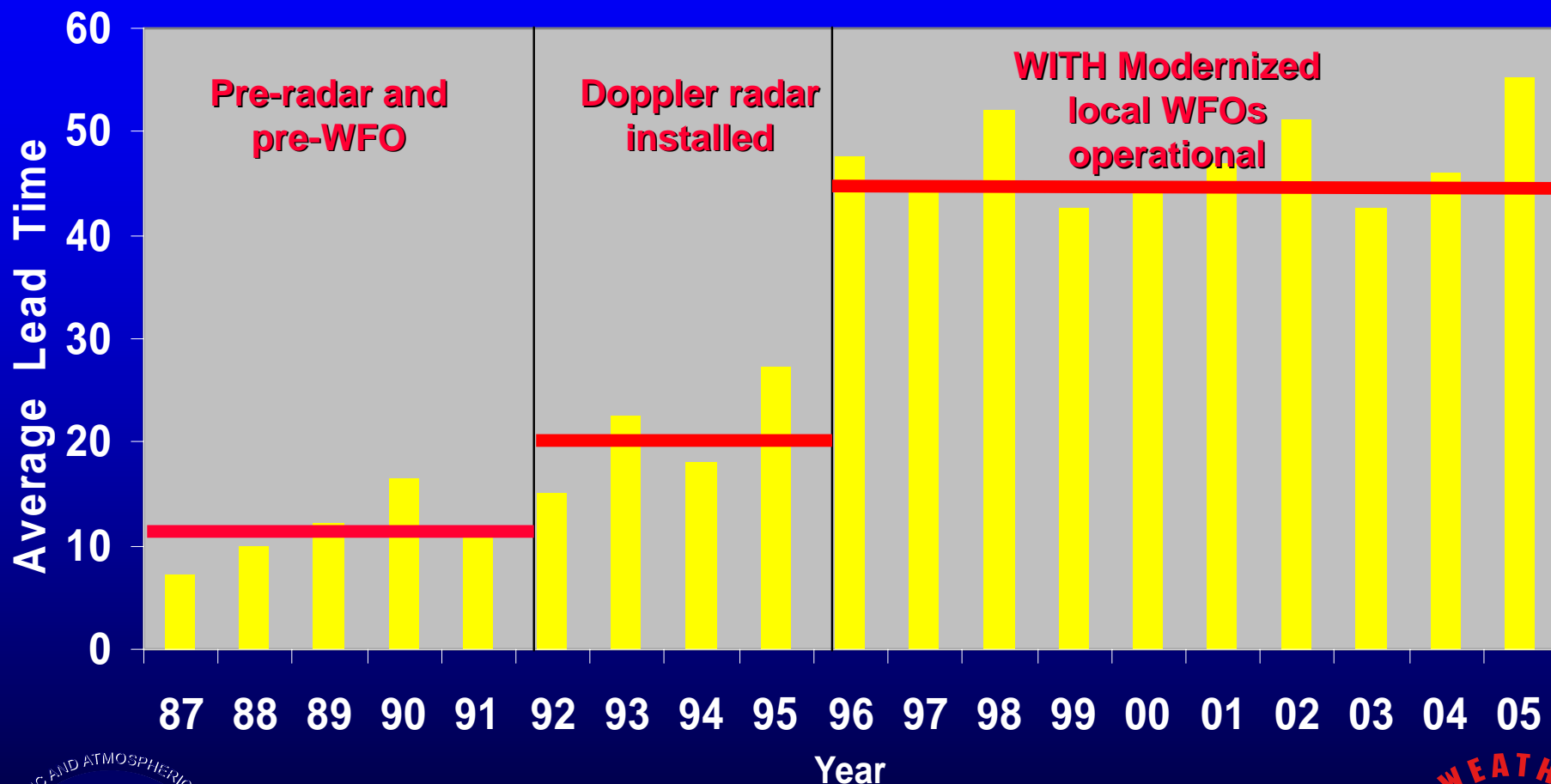


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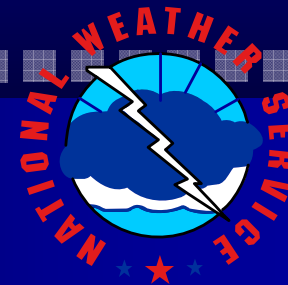


# Local WFOs Save Lives

By increasing Flash Flood Warning Lead Time

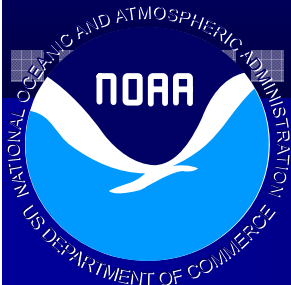
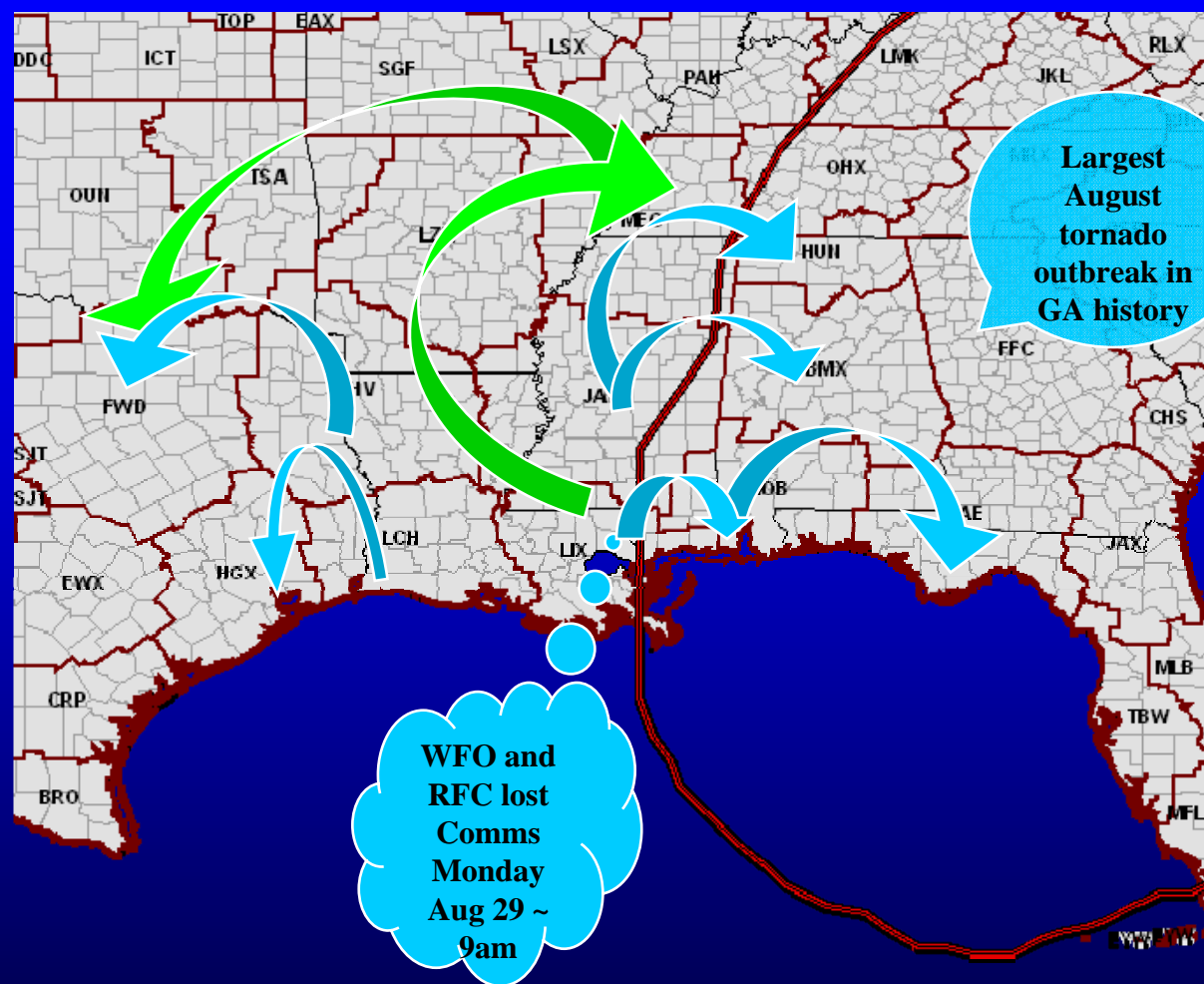


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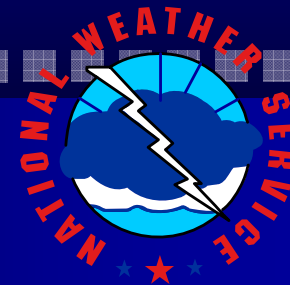


# Katrina Impacts Widely Felt

- **LIX, LCH, SHV, and JAN** lost commercial communications
- **LMRFC** moved to **Memphis WFO**, later to **WGRFC**
- **MOB, BMX, HUN, HGX, TAE, and FWD** assumed backup roles as planned to assist offices in need ....**all seamless to customers!**
- **WFO Atlanta** provided advance warnings for **largest August tornado outbreak in GA history**

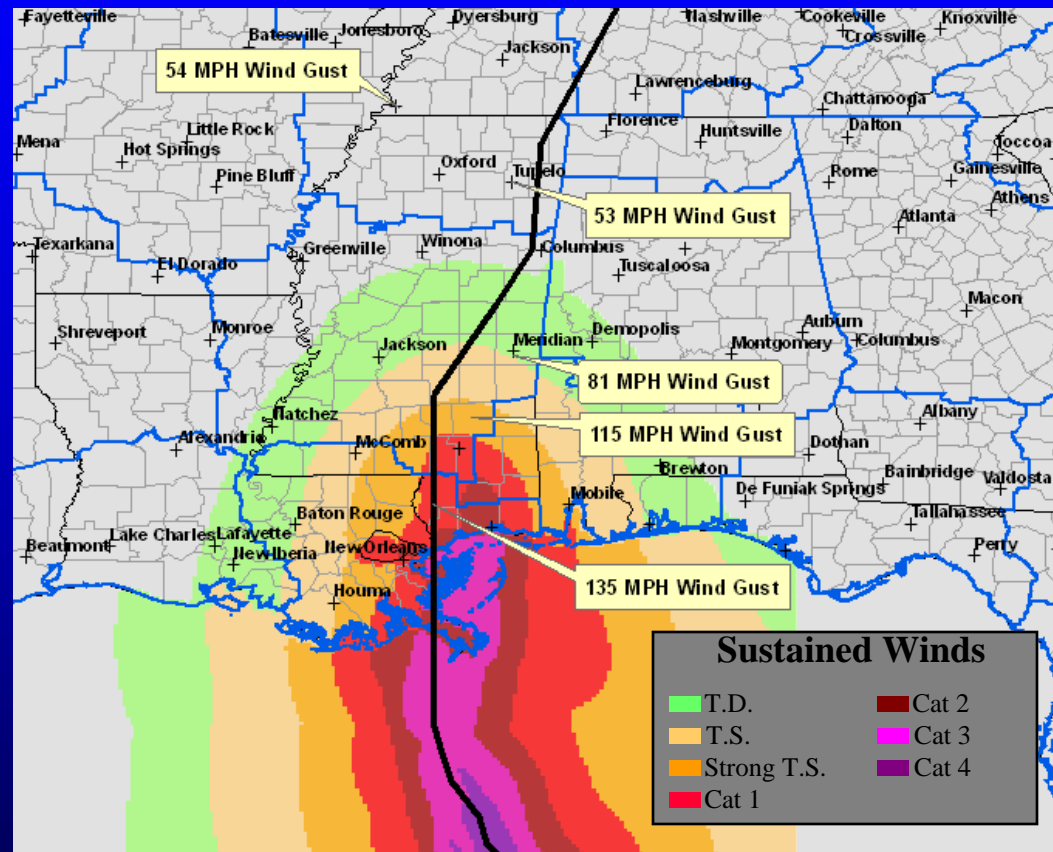


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# Katrina's Inland Reach

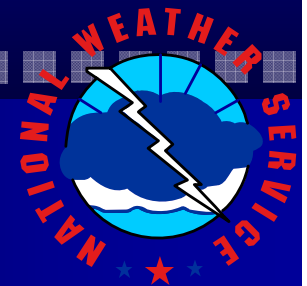
- **Hurricane Winds** observed as far north as central MS
- **T.S. winds** observed as far north as the TN valley
- **14 SR WFO's\*** and **2 RFC's** directly impacted by Katrina
- **20 SR WFO's, 3 RFC's, and SRH** operationally involved in the backup and recovery for Katrina



*\*Includes South Florida offices during 1<sup>st</sup> landfall*

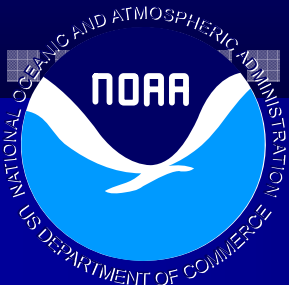
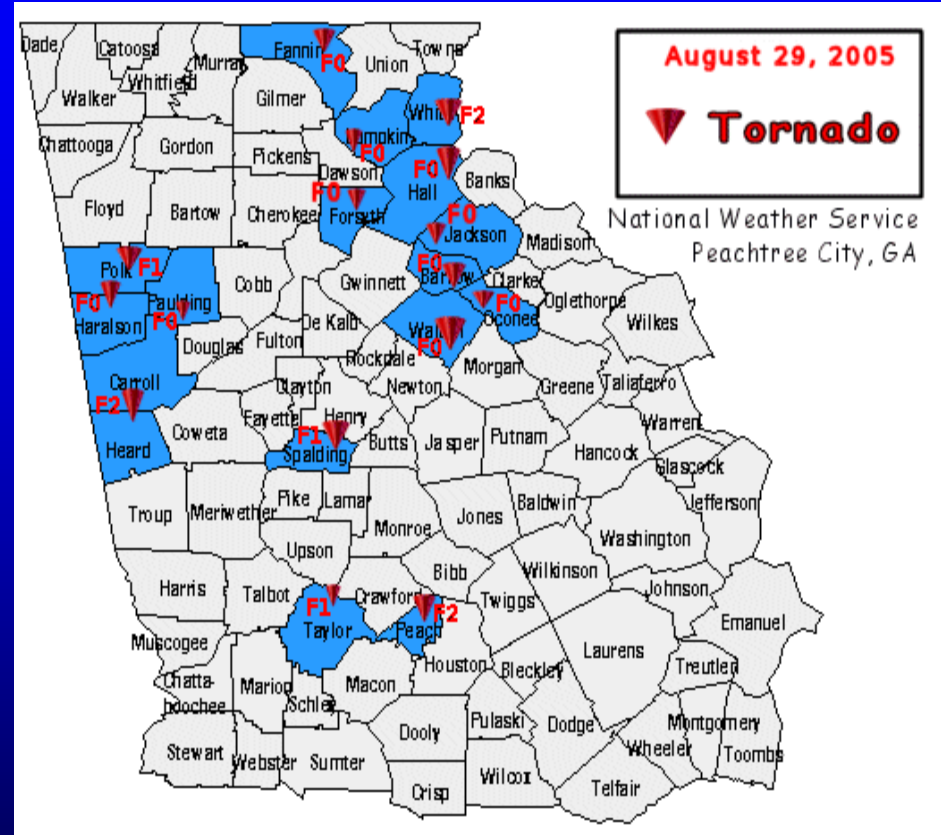


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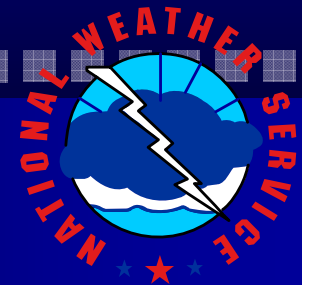


# Katrina Tornadoes in GA

- **New Georgia Records**
  - **18 Tornadoes**
    - The **most ever in a single day**
    - The **1<sup>st</sup> tornado fatalities (2) in August**
    - **Greatest dollar loss** from tornadoes in August
    - **10.4 min Avg lead time**

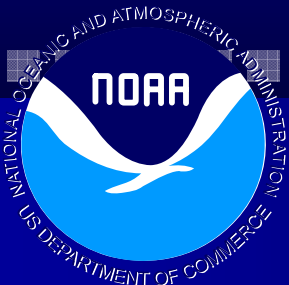
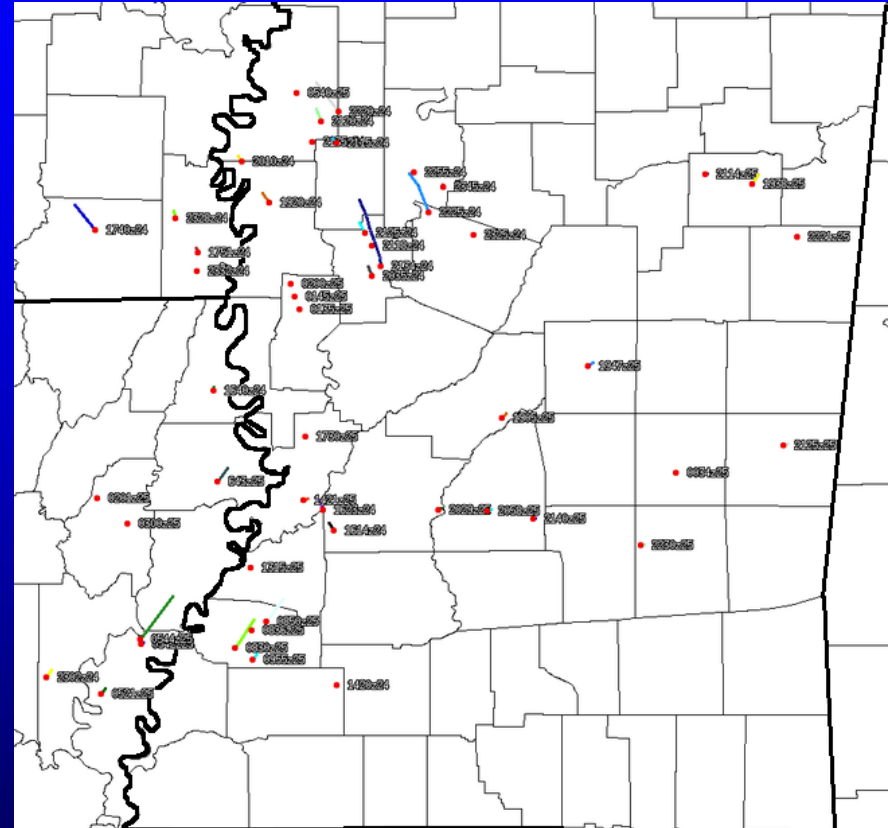


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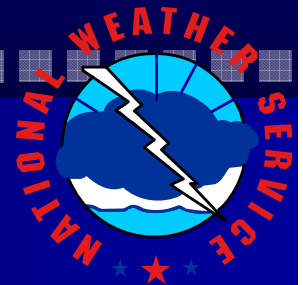


# Rita Tornadoes in Mississippi

- **66** Tornadoes
  - Sept 23-25, 2005
  - ***Largest outbreak*** in Jackson WFO County Warning Area since records have been kept (1950)
  - ***Only 1 fatality!***
  - ***12.9 min avg lead time***



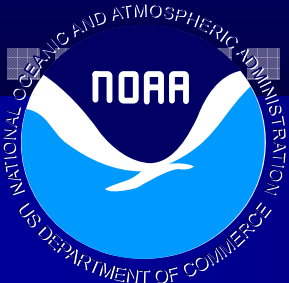
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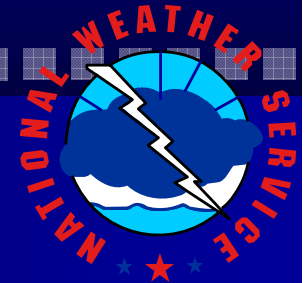
# NWS SR Internet Site

[www.srh.weather.gov](http://www.srh.weather.gov)

- Serves as your one-stop reliable source for the latest 24x7 weather info.
- Developed for both our partners and public.
  - **Easy navigation**
  - **Data given in the manner you need it.**
  - Increases public awareness and proper response
  - Vital loadsharing of NHC internet demands during high volume periods

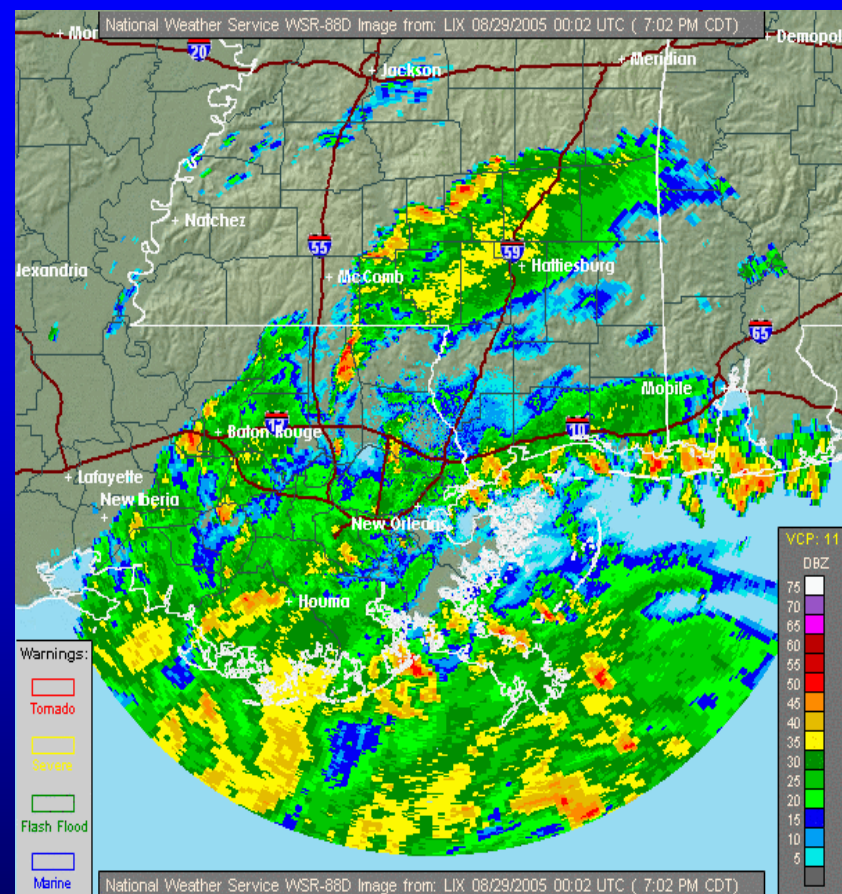


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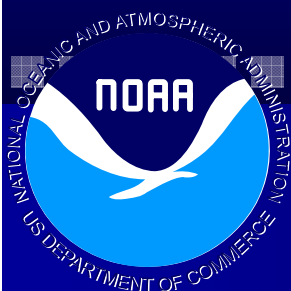


# New NWS GIS Radar Webpages

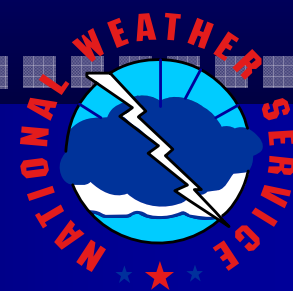
- Available as time loops for ALL National Weather Service 88D Radars
- Radar images and warnings are GIS ready
- \*Adds NWS warnings to the display
- Calculates distance from a storm feature and determines Latitude/Longitude
- Provides real time radar reflectivity, precipitation and now, *velocity* data!
- *A Southern Region initiative, now National ... as of Feb 21, 2006*



[www.srh.weather.gov/ridge](http://www.srh.weather.gov/ridge)



NWS SOUTHERN REGION  
[www.srh.weather.gov](http://www.srh.weather.gov)

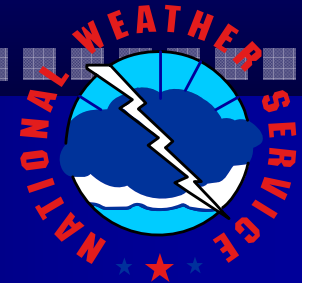


# Our new GIS Radar Webpages...

- **Proved critical to NWS, partners and public**
  - Used by EM's, govt officials, media and other professionals and of course, the public
  - WFO 88D Radar was **40-50%** of our web traffic during land-falling hurricanes
  - This is equated to about **1.4 BILLION** hits during just Katrina and Rita
- **Creative Feedback**
  - Over 27,000 surveys and comments overwhelmingly supported our new GIS radar depiction.

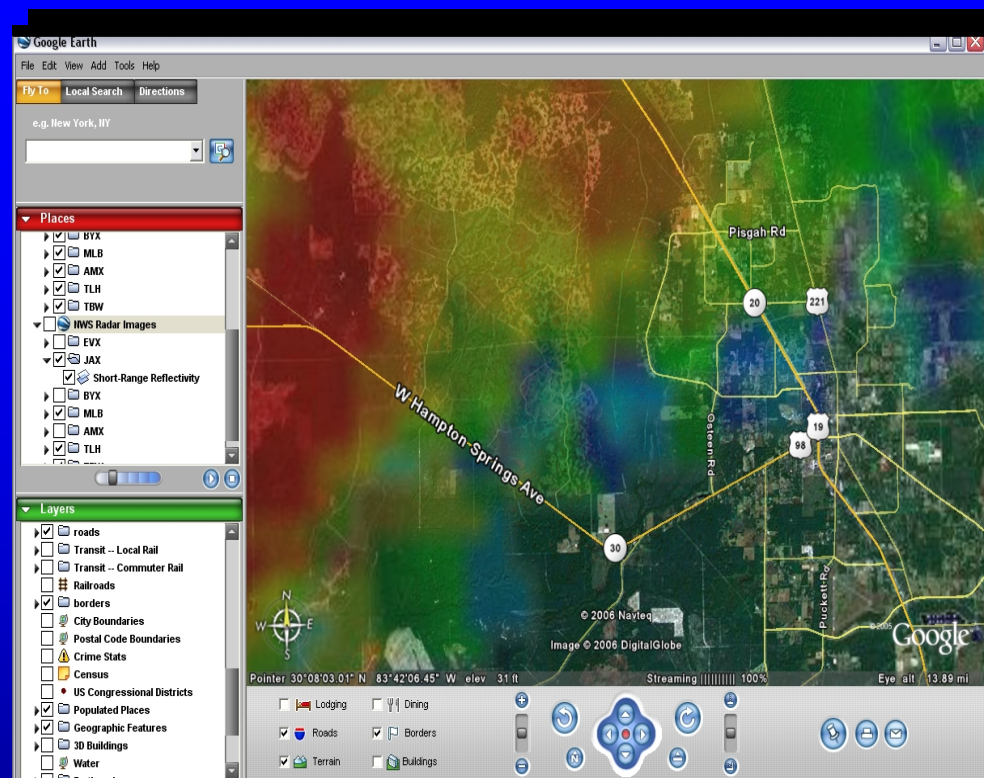
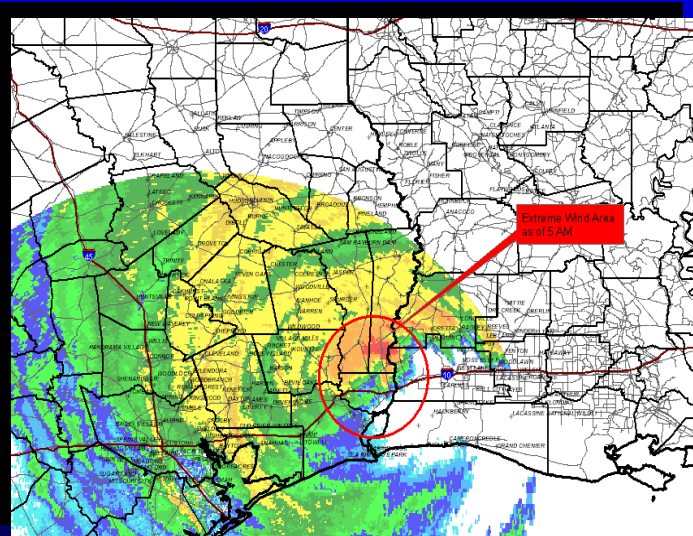


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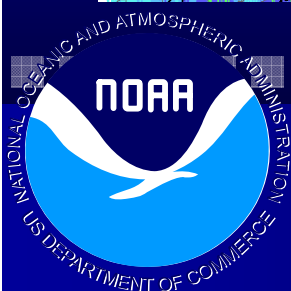


# GIS Ready

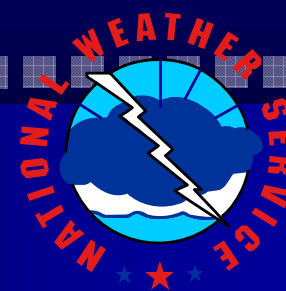
- RIDGE radar images and warning polygons can be loaded into your GIS software (Google Earth-right, ArcGIS-below)



- GIS software allows you to integrate NWS radar in real time on your own custom GIS graphics & data

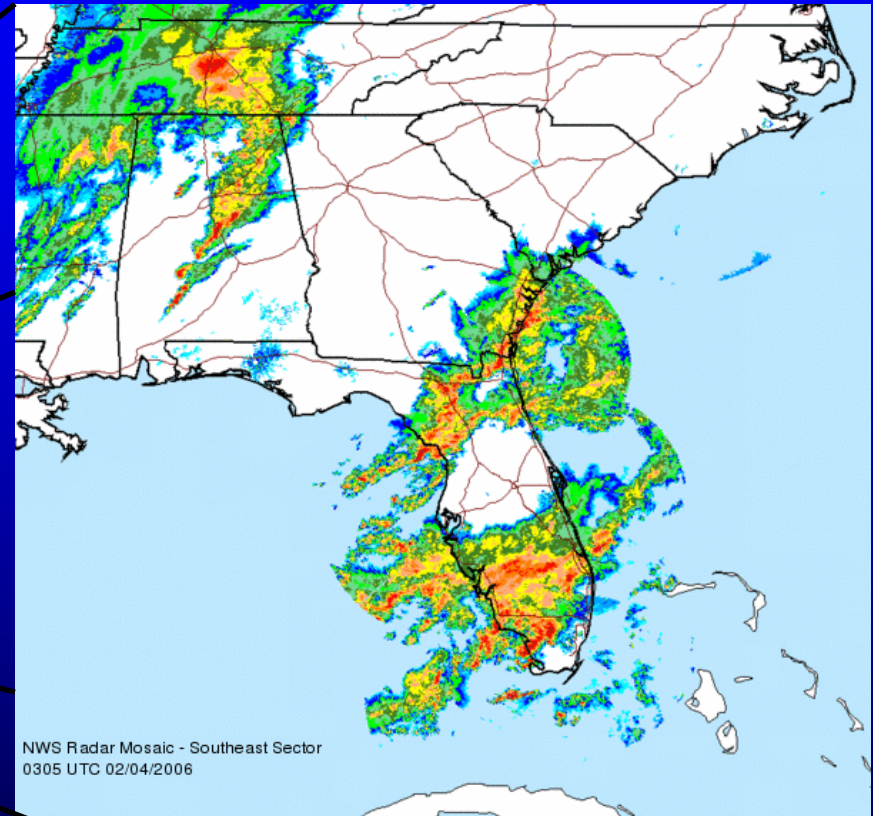
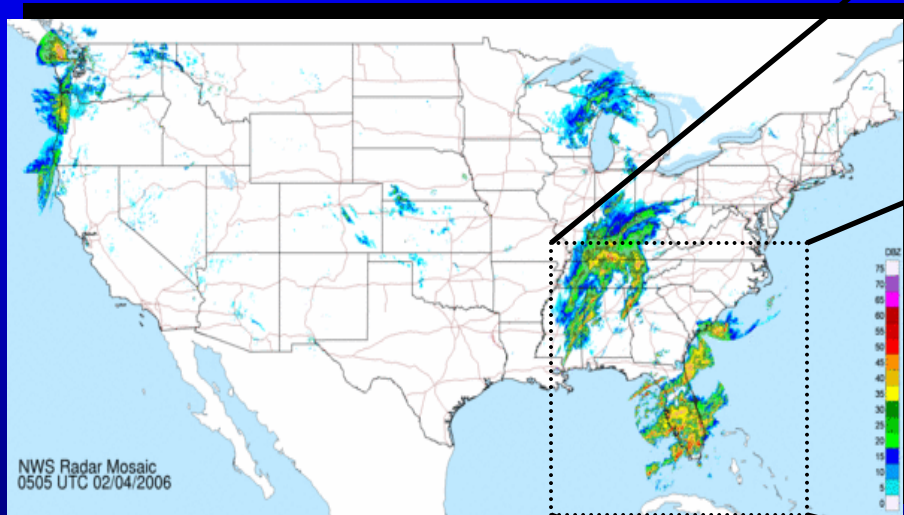


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[www.srh.weather.gov](http://www.srh.weather.gov)

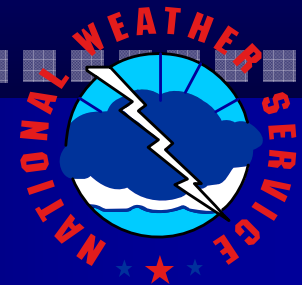


# New and Improved National and Regional Mosaics

<http://www.srh.noaa.gov/ridge>



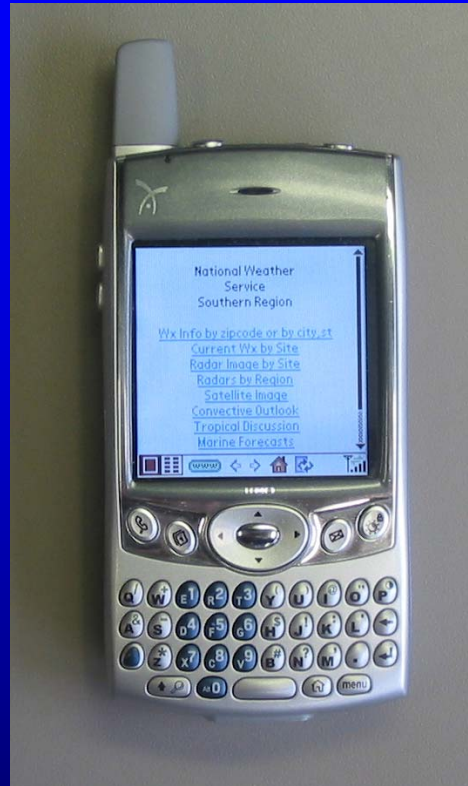
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# Mobile Weather

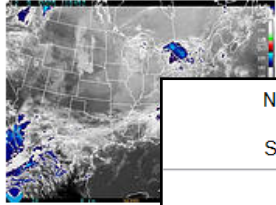
A lot of weather info  
when you need it...  
on mobile devices!

*Another Southern  
Region Initiative*



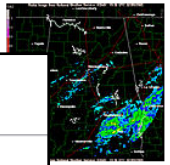
National Weather Service Southern Region

GOES Eastern US IR



National Weather Service Southern Region

Radar: kbmh  
Birmingham, AL  
01:36 PM CST Wed Feb 09 2005



Loop Satellite For Wide Pa

National Weather Service Southern Region

Fort Worth, TX  
Current Local Conditions at:  
Dallas / Fort Worth International Airport  
Last Update: 02/09/05, 12:53 PM CST  
Mostly Cloudy: 43 °F

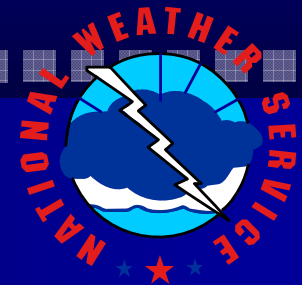
[Forecast at a Glance](#)  
[Detailed 7-day Forecast](#)  
[Your Local Radar](#)  
[Current Conditions](#)  
[Satellite Image](#)  
[Hazardous Weather](#)  
[Area Forecast Discussion](#)

[Radar Image](#)  
[Storm Totals](#)  
[Wide Page Mode](#)

[www.srh.weather.gov/wml](http://www.srh.weather.gov/wml)



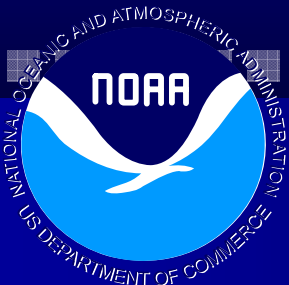
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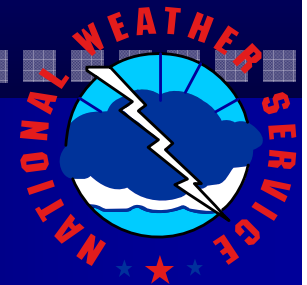
# The Future of **YOUR** NWS

Improvement must build on the mesoscale success of the modernization –

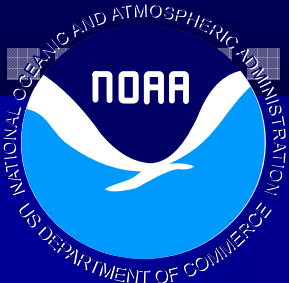
*...Mesoscale (local scale) weather & climate information, local “mesonets” of observations, better radar resolution with faster volume scans, finer scale local modeling, tactical met support to EM, digital forecasts... all resulting in better warnings.*



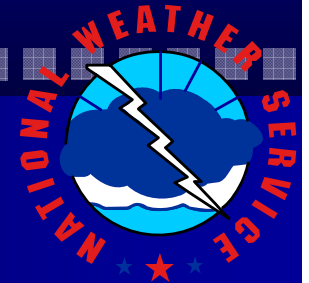
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Your National Weather Service  
epitomizes the concept:  
**...government closest to the people,  
serves best!**



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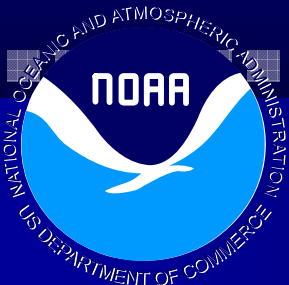


**Questions?**  
**Bill.Proenza@noaa.gov**  
**(817) 978-1000**

**Would you like copies of the slides?**

**Go To: [www.srh.weather.gov](http://www.srh.weather.gov)**

**At Left Margin Click on: “Welcome from the Director”**  
**At Left Margin Click on: “’06 Interdepartmental Hrcn Conf**



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